

Remarks

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-16, 18-26, and 28-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,807,537 of *Thiesson et al.* ("*Thiesson*") and U.S. Patent No. 6,076,083 of *Baker*. ("*Baker*").

Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 11 is not obvious in view of *Thiesson* and *Baker* because *Thiesson* and *Baker* do not disclose or suggest adapting a learning rate for updating parameters of a Bayesian network as claimed in amended claim 11. *Thiesson* teaches generating a Bayesian network (MBN) (*Thiesson*, col. 21, lines 25-65) but does not disclose updating the parameters using a learning rate and present observation data as claimed in amended claim 11. Instead, *Thiesson* teaches that each iteration of the process of generating an MBN employs the same empirical data 504, i.e. past observation data. For example, *Thiesson* discloses a scoring mechanism 602 that uses the empirical data 504 (*Thiesson*, col. 21, lines 30-32) and teaches that that same scoring mechanism 602 is used in each iteration (*Thiesson*, col. 21, lines 62-65).

*Baker* discloses updating Bayesian parameters using present observation data but does not disclose or suggest a learning rate much less adapting a learning rate as claimed in amended claim 11. *Baker* discloses two sets of equations for updating a Bayesian network - neither of which include a learning rate as claimed in amended claim 11. (*Baker*, col. 11, lines 1-37, col. 12, lines 5-30). *Baker* discloses equations 4 and 5 for updating Bayesian network probabilities with "new probability information" (*Baker*, col. 11, lines 34-37) but equations 4 and 5 do not include a learning rate as claimed in amended claim 11. Similarly, *Baker* discloses equations 6 and 7 for updating a Bayesian network model with "new knowledge" (*Baker*, col. 11, lines 43-48) but equations 6 and 7 do not include a learning rate as claimed in amended claim 11. Given that *Baker* does not disclose or suggest a learning rate, it follows that *Baker* does not disclose or suggest adapting a learning rate as claimed in amended claim 11.

Given that claims 12-20 depend from amended claim 11, it is submitted that claims 12-20 are not obvious in view of *Thiesson* and *Baker*.

It is also submitted that amended claim 21 is not obvious in view of *Thiesson* and *Baker*. Amended claim 21 includes limitations similar to the limitations of amended claim 11. Therefore, the remarks stated above with respect to amended claim 11 also apply to amended claim 21.

Given that claims 22-29 depend from amended claim 21, it is submitted that claims 22-29 are not obvious in view of *Thiesson* and *Baker*.

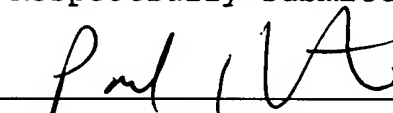
It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the applicable rejections have been overcome.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6-28-07

By: \_\_\_\_\_



Paul H. Horstmann  
Reg. No.: 36,167